WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method comprising the steps of:

(a) recording an image on a material by an ink jet recording system using water-based ink comprising a colorant;

(b) laying a protective layer-imparting material comprising a support and a layer comprising a radiation-curing compound that is capable of being a resin at curing, the layer being capable of being released from the protective layer-imparting material, on a surface of the material in such a way that the surface of the material and the layer face each other;

(c) laminating the surface of the material and the protective layer-imparting material by at least one of heating and the application of pressure;

(d) curing the layer by irradiation of a radiation to form a protective layer; and

(e) releasing the support from the protective layer-imparting material.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the method is carried out by one of three processes of:

1) step (a), step (b), step (c), step (d) and step (e), in order;

2) step (a), step (b), step (c), step (e) and step (d), in order; and

3) step (a), step (b), step (c), step (d), step (e) and step (d), in order.

3. The method of claim 1, which further comprising drying process after recording an image on a material by an ink jet recording system using water-based ink comprising a colorant.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the colorant is a water-soluble dye.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the colorant is an oil-soluble dye.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein the water-based ink further comprises a high boiling organic solvent.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein the colorant is a pigment.

8. The method of claim 6, wherein the oil-soluble dye and the high boiling organic solvent are dispersed in the water-based ink in an average particle size of 1 μm or less.

9. The method of claim 7, wherein the pigment is dispersed in the water-based ink in an average particle size of 1 μm or

less.

10. The method of claim 1, wherein the water-based ink further comprises a water-soluble organic solvent.

11. The method of claim 1, wherein the material comprises a support and an image receiving layer comprising a white inorganic pigment particle.

12. The method of claim 1, wherein the protective layer has a thickness of from 0.1 μm to 50 μm when the protective layer is dry.

13. An image-recorded material comprising a protective layer prepared by the method of claim 1.